



**ITU/NBTC Regional Forum and Training Workshop on  
Telecommunication/ICT Indicators: Measuring the Information  
Society  
&  
ITU-ASEAN Meeting on Establishing National ICT Statistics  
Portals and Measuring ASEAN ICT Targets**

**13 October 2014  
Centara World at Central World, Bangkok, Thailand**

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**Mr. Ioane Koroivuki,**

Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

*Air Chief Marshal Thares Punsri, Chairman, National Broadcasting  
and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (NBTC);*

*Mrs. Songporn Komolsuradej, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry  
of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand (MICT);*

*Mr. Nicolas D. Ojeda Jr., Assistant Secretary, Department of Science  
and Technology - Information and Communication Technology*

Office, Philippines, representing ASEAN as the Project Proponent of the ITU-ASEAN collaboration in this Forum;

*Mr. Jae-Hong Lim*, Head, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)

*Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;*

Good morning!

It is a great pleasure and an honor to address you at the Opening of the ITU/NBTC Regional Forum and Training Workshop on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators: Measuring the Information Society and the ITU-ASEAN Meeting on Establishing National ICT Statistics Portals and Measuring ASEAN ICT Targets.

On behalf of the ITU, I would like to extend my warm greetings and welcome to all of you to this important Forum which is jointly organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (who is also kindly hosting this event) and the International Telecommunication Union, with generous support from the Department of Communications, Government of Australia.

I am delighted that our Forum co-organizers and partners , namely the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand (MICT), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Project Office for Governance (UNPOG), and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) are continuing the close and important collaboration that we have had for several years either jointly or separately and that for this year, we are extending the focus of collaboration on strengthening the capacity of countries in the region, particularly ASEAN and Pacific Island countries, to produce national indicators and statistics on telecommunication/ICT, based on internationally agreed standards and methodologies.

As you are aware, ITU, as the UN specialized agency for ICTs, is the official source for global ICT statistics. One important mandate of the ITU is to assist developing countries to collect and disseminate ICT data and to provide support through awareness raising, technical training, practical tools, and national and regional workshops for national agencies such as this Forum.

In this regard, ITU, aware of the institutional and technical difficulties faced by our member countries, is more than pleased to work with you and our partners to meet your requirements for an operative institutional and technical framework, system and skills in relation to the collection, production, analysis and utilization of ICT indicators and statistics.

ITU also regularly publishes related reports such as (a) Measuring the Information Society (the 2014 version of this Report will be released next month), (b) ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (the latest edition released in June this year), (c) ITU ICT Facts and Figures and so many more, which I am sure my colleagues from the ICT Data and Statistics Division in ITU Headquarters in Geneva will discuss more about these resources in the next coming days, hopefully to assist you in your daily work.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

ICTs particularly in the converged digital era have an enormous impact on virtually all aspects of our lives, while being globally recognized as a critical enabler for creative economy, socio-economic development, empowerment of people and local communities in countries at different phases of development. There

is no doubt that this fast growing, vibrant and exciting era calls for statistics and indicators to monitor and track access and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Regular collection of ICT data has been common practice for over a decade in many developed countries. However, the demand for ICT statistics has only recently emerged in the developing world, spearheaded by those countries that have identified the ICT sector as one of their priorities to lead economic and social development.

I believe this is also the case of ASEAN countries, which at this particular time will be measuring the ICT targets set forth in the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015.

Similarly, countries including those from ASEAN and the Pacific will also have to monitor and measure ICT-related goals and targets that have been identified through the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose target year for these goals to be achieved is also 2015. Thus, it is critical that countries produce the necessary indicators to monitor information society developments and track progress towards the achievement of the agreed goals.

Moreover, it cannot be over-emphasized that to effectively measure the impact of ICT on the various sectors of society, to monitor the progress of ICT development in the country and to have very well-informed and analyzed ICT-related policies and decisions, there is need for relevant, accurate and timely ICT data and statistics.

Recognizing the importance of ICT statistics, the challenges that member countries are facing, and the need to address the challenges, ITU is already working in close collaboration with its members and we would like to strengthen this partnership further. For instance, ITU and NBTC have entered into an agreement this year to jointly implement a project on Human Capacity Building in Telecom/ICT Statistics and Indicators which is aimed to, among others, strengthen human and institutional capacity of national statistical offices, national telecommunications regulatory authorities, relevant government agencies, and the industry including telecommunication service providers not only in Thailand, but also in ASEAN Member Countries as well as other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This 4-day event is in fact supported by the project and hence I take this opportunity to thank the NBTC for its generosity and support to the ITU.

We hope that this Forum will be useful, relevant and productive to assist you in carrying out your respective work as well as address the related challenges that you are currently facing.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Before closing, allow me to remind you that ITU has a number of major events in the remainder of the year, such as the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014, the highest level ITU conference which will be taking place in Busan, Republic of Korea on 20 October – 7 November 2014, the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) that will be held on 24-26 November 2014, in Tbilisi, Georgia, and the ITU Telecom World 2014 event, which will be taking place in Qatar in December, after PP-14.

Let me therefore take this opportunity to welcome you in advance to these events.

Lastly, on behalf of ITU, let me express our deep appreciation to our co-organizers, supporters, partners, speakers, delegates and everyone involved for their important contribution to this Forum.

I look forward to further partnerships on related subjects as well as other common priority areas as we in ITU place great value on partnerships.

I wish you all productive discussions and meaningful outcomes from this Forum.

Thank you for your attention.

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